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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 16 July 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the final communiqué (see annex I) and the Action Plan for Bosnia and Herzegovina (see annex II) adopted by a Special Ministerial Meeting of the Bureau of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers enlarged to the members of the Contact Group and States contributing troops to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), held at Islamabad on 12 and 13 July 1993.

I would appreciate it if you would kindly have the text of the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 143, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Jamsheed K. A. MARKER
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex I

COMMUNIQUE OF THE OIC SPECIAL MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE BUREAU OF THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTERS ENLARGED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP AND STATES CONTRIBUTING TROOPS TO THE UNPROFOR

ISLAMABAD, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN 23 MUHARRAM, 1414 H (13 JULY 1993)

The OIC Special Ministerial Meeting of the Bureau of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers enlarged to the members of the Contact Group and Member States contributing troops to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina was held in Islamabad, Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on 22-23 Muharram, 1414H (12-13 July 1993).

2. The following Member States attended the Meeting:

1. The Republic of Indonesia.
2. The Republic of Uganda.
3. The Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan.
5. The People's Republic of Bangladesh.
6. The Republic of Turkey.
7. The Republic of Tunisia.
8. The People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.
9. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
10. The Republic of Senegal.
11. The State of Palestine.
12. Malaysia.
13. The Arab Republic of Egypt.
14. The Kingdom of Morocco.
15. Brunei Darussalam
16. The Republic of Djibouti.

The Foreign Minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, His Excellency Haris Silajdzic also participated in the Meeting.

The U.N. Secretary-General was also represented.

3. The Meeting was inaugurated by His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. In his illuminating address, the Prime Minister welcomed the participants and highlighted the plight of the Muslims of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, who had been subjected to brutal aggression and genocide. The Prime Minister

expressed sentiments of deep sympathy and fraternal solidarity with the Government and people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and affirmed the determination of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to spare no effort for the defence of their just cause. He also recalled the various steps taken by Pakistan in this regard, especially the arrival of hundreds of Bosnian refugees in Pakistan, who were being provided shelter and support in a spirit of Islamic fraternity and humanity. He also expressed appreciation for the concerted efforted being made by the Islamic countries under the auspices of the Organization of Islamic Conference to support the noble cause of Bosnia-Herzegovina and stressed the need to further intensify these efforts on the political, diplomatic and military levels in close coordination with the United Nations. The Prime Minister stated that the Government of Pakistan has decided to contribute an infantry Brigade to the UNPROFOR.

The Prime Minister also referred to the massive and systematic violations of human rights of the Kashmiri and Palestinian peoples who were engaged in just struggle to realize their inalienable right of self-determination. He urged the OIC Member States to continue to extend to the Kashmiri and Palestinian peoples full moral, political and humanitarian support.

4. On the proposal of His Excellency Moustapha Niasse, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Senegal, the meeting decided to adopt the inaugural address of His Excellency Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as its official document. It expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the Prime Minister as well as to the Government and people of Pakistan for the warm welcome and generous hospitality extended to all delegations.

5. The Meeting was presided by His Excellency Mohammad Siddique Khan Kanju, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Pakistan, who also welcomed the participants and emphasized the importance of coordination and consultation on concrete measures to be taken by OIC Member States in support of the just cause of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

6. The Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Conference, His Excellency Dr. Hamid Algabid welcomed the participants and expressed his gratitude to the Government of Pakistan for convening at short notice this important Meeting to evaluate the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and to coordinate the despatch of troops from OIC Member States to the UNPROFOR. He emphasized the need for pooling the resources of the Islamic Ummah for alleviating the sufferings of the Bosnian people and for supporting their just struggle, within the framework of international legality, to defend their country against aggression and genocide. He also reiterated the principled position of the OIC in respect of the cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as on the struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination. He also expressed serious concern over the continuing Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan and the situation in Somalia and Afghanistan.

7. The Meeting adopted its agenda as contained in Document No.BFMCG/3-93/DA.1.

8. The Meeting noted with appreciation the Report of the Secretary General on the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina contained in Document No.BFMCG/3-93/D.1 and the

Report on the Cause of Palestine and Al-Quds Al-Sharif contained in Document No.BFMCG/3-93/D.2.

9. The Meeting listened with sentiments of deep sympathy and solidarity to the moving statement of the Foreign Minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina. It then proceeded to discuss indepth the situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and issues relating to the troop contributions by OIC Member States to the UNPROFOR. The Ministers were also assisted, in this regard, by the military aides, who also held detailed discussions with the U.N. Representative.

10. The Meeting adopted an Action Plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

11. The Meeting hailed the blessed Palestinian Intifadha, expressedits full solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people and their just cause under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization, its sole legitimate representative and further reiterated that the issue of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and Palestine remains the central issue for the Islamic Ummah.

- It reiterated its support for the Middle East Peace Process, and recalled that a just and comprehensive peace in the region cannot be achieved without a full Israeli withdrawal from all the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967 including the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif and without the Palestinian people being enabled to exercise their national imprescriptible rights including their right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of their own independent state on their national homeland.

- It stressed the fact that the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif holds a special and distinct place in the hearts of all Muslims, as an integral part of the Palestinian territories occupied in 1967, which is subject to the same provisions that apply to the other occupied territories. It, therefore, cannot be excluded in any way from the peace negotiations currently underway, in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Security Council Resolutions No. 465, 476 and 478, which consider all the decisions adopted by Israel regarding the annexation of the City of Al-Quds and the imposition of Israeli laws on it, as null and void.

- It called upon the international community to persuade Israel to lift the siege of the occupied Palestinian territories and end the isolation of the Al-Quds Al-Sharif as well as to put an end to its aggressions and repressive and terrorist acts against the Palestinian citizens and to its flagrant violations of human rights of Palestinians, and to allow the return of all the Palestinian deportees as well as to discontinue its settlement policy in the occupied and Palestinian territories including the City of Al-Quds Al-Sharif, and put an end to its acts of desecration against the holy shrines. It also called upon the international community to adopt the necessary measures for the protection of the Palestinian people within the occupied Palestinian territories and to place the latter under interim international supervision in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 605, 607, 681 and 726.

12. The Meeting strongly condemned the continuing massive and systematic violations of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and expressed its serious alarm over the deployment of thousands of additional Indian troops to quell the popular Kashmiri uprising for self-determination. It urged the international community to persuade India to cease forthwith its policy of repression against the Kashmiri people and to enable them to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination. It also appealed to the Member States to provide humanitarian assistance to the Kashmiri people. It also reaffirmed the provisions of Resolution 9/21 on the Jammu and Kashmir dispute adopted by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Minisers and called for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the relevant U.N. Resolutions.

13. The Meeting strongly condemned the continuing Armenian aggression against the Republic of Azerbaijan and demanded the immediate withdrawal of Armenian forces from all occupied Azerbaijani territories. It urged Armenia to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan and called for a just and peaceful settlement of the Karabakh issue on the basis of respect for the principles of territorial integrity of states and inviolability of internationally recognized frontiers.

14. The Meeting also expressed its deep concern over the situation in Somalia and strongly condemned the recent attacks against the personnel of UNOSOM (United Nations Operation in Somalia). It urged all Somali factions to respect their commitments under the Addis Ababa Peace Agreement and appealed to the Somali people to extend their fullest cooperation to the Joint OIC-UN efforts to promote peace and national reconciliation in Somalia as well as to alleviate the sufferings of the Somali people.

15. The Meeting reiterated its continuing support for the just cause of the Turkish Muslim Community of Cyprus.

16. At the conclusion of the deliberations, the Chairman thanked the participants for their rich and constructive contributions which had enabled the Meeting to adopt an important Action Plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was a further manifestation of the commitment of the OIC Member States to cooperate with and support the United Nations military operations for achieving peace with justice in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

17. On behalf of the countries participating in the meeting, His Excellency Moustapha Niasse, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Senegal and representing His Excellency President Abdou Diouf, current Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit, thanked the Chairman for his able stewardship of the proceedings of the Meeting. He also expressed gratitude of the participants to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan for hosting this important Meeting, which has been a great success.

Annex II

ACTION PLAN FOR BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

The situation in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina is desperate. This independent and sovereign member state of the United Nations has been subjected to blatant external aggression and genocide by the Yugoslav National Army supported by Serbian forces. This aggression has been compounded by the recent attacks by Croat extremist elements. The Security Council has failed to fulfil its responsibilities under Article 24 of the UN Charter.

2. The OIC countries hold to the position that the Serbian aggression should be halted; it should be reversed through withdrawals from all territories occupied by the use of force, genocide, "ethnic cleansing" or by any other means and that the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina should be fully restored.

3. Certain major powers in the region have, by their acts of omission and commission, allowed the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina to continue unabated and unchecked for nearly 20 months including preventing the Security Council from acting decisively. The attitude of some of these states towards the negotiating process has merely served as a cover for the continuation of the aggression. The UN Security Council has been prevented from enforcing its demands and decisions against the aggressor under Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

4. The unjust arms embargo imposed by Security Council Resolution 713 has moreover prevented the victim of the aggression from exercising its inherent right to individual and collective self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter. The arms embargo was imposed against the former Yugoslavia. Bosnia-Herzegovina did not exist when resolution 713 was adopted.

5. As a result of aggression, the use of force and genocide, the Serbian aggressor is now in possession of 70% of Bosnia-Herzegovina while Croat forces occupy 20%, with the Bosnian government left in control of less than 10% of the country's territory. The perpetrators of the aggression have advanced a Plan for the partition of Bosnia-Herzegovina which would legitimize the acquisition of territory through the use of force and genocide. This Plan cannot serve as a basis for negotiations.

6. Serbian aggression will not end in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Already, the repression of Muslims in Kosovo and Sanjak has been escalated. CSCE observers are being expelled. There is a threat to Macedonia and other States neighbouring Serbia. The acceptance of the gains by aggression will seriously erode the credibility of the Security Council in upholding universally the principles of the UN Charter and respect for the rule of law.

7. The OIC Member States believe that, even at this eleventh hour, resolute action can help to save the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Bosnian Muslims. To this end, they have decided to take the following actions:

one, to request the Security Council and the Secretary-General of the United Nations to take immediate measures to relieve the grave situation prevailing in Sarajevo and other Bosnian towns including the resumption of water, electricity, gas, oil and other amenities; requests further the Security Council to ensure that humanitarian convoys are not impeded from delivering the essential supplies and to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to ensure the prompt delivery of these supplies to the Bosnian people and in this context, to instruct UNPROFOR to use force, if necessary, as mandated under the existing Security Council resolutions.

two, to urge the UN Security Council to condemn the Serb-Croatian military offensive in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

three, to call on the Security Council to demand an immediate ceasefire and cessation of hostilities in Bosnia-Herzegovina which is a necessary pre-requisite for the success of negotiations for a just and equitable political solution of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Council must authorize the UN Force in Bosnia to have recourse to the use of force, if necessary, to impose such a ceasefire.

four, to move the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution setting out the basic principles and framework for a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The International Conference must conform with these principles, which include the following:

- the immediate and complete cessation of hostilities;

- non-recognition of acquisition of territory by use of force and immediate and unconditional vacation of territories acquired by use of force and ethnic cleansing;

- the reversal of the consequences of aggression and ethnic cleansing;

- recognition and respect for the right of all Bosnian refugees to return to their homes in safety and honour including their right to receive compensation;

- restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and unity of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

- individual responsibility for the perpetration of crimes

against humanity;

- the right of the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina to seek and receive reparations for the war damages caused by the aggressor.

five, the UN Secretary-General should urgently deploy the UN Protection Force to provide adequate protection to the "safe areas" listed in UN Security Council Resolution 824 - Bihac, Goradze, Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Tuzla, Zepa.

six, propose to the UN Security Council that the list of "safe areas" in Bosnia-Herzegovina should be enlarged to include: Mostar, Maglaj, Brcko, Gradacac and Travnik.

seven, the OIC Member States will provide troops, as part of the overall international effort, under Security Council Resolution 836 (1993), to the UN Protection Force. The following OIC countries have made specific offers and commitments of troops for the UNPROFOR:

(a) Bangladesh 1220 personnel (one mechanized infantry battalion).

(b) Iran one complete division up to 10,000 personnel (including medical and engineering units).

(c) Malaysia 1,500 personnel (one mechanized regimental group).

(d) Pakistan 3,000 personnel (including two mechanized units).

(e) Palestine 1,000 personnel (including medical and engineering units).

(f) Tunisia 1,000 personnel (one battalion-in principle agreement).

(g) Turkey up to a brigade.

The Meeting emphasized that these troops are assigned only for a humanitarian mission and on a temporary basis to provide protection to the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina against the massacres and inhuman practices to which they are subjected to, and not to take part under any condition in any plan to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina or being party to any attempt to consecrate the creation of isolated areas of refugee ghettos for Bosnians inside the territory of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

eight, in the context of the offers and commitments of contingents by OIC Member States to UNPROFOR, to:

i) maximize the mandate given to UNPROFOR under Operative Paragraph 5 of Resolution 836 (1993) in order to protect the safe areas;

ii) seek a Unified Command structure, with due high-level representation from the OIC troop-contributing states, for all UNPROFOR troops in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina so as to ensure that contingents from OIC Member States in UNPROFOR will not be exposed to greater risk than other national contingents in terms of deployment, equipment, air cover etc;

iii) seek authority for UNPROFOR Commanders in the United Nations protected safe areas to be able to make direct request for air cover from NATO aircraft in the event of attacks on safe areas and/or any activity which may interfere with the task of protecting the safe areas;

iv) secure the supply of necessary equipment essential for the performance of the task assigned to the troops from OIC countries in the United Nations safe areas;

v) ensure the move as expeditiously as possible to the heavy option.

nine, entrusts the OIC Contact Group in New York to immediately consult the UN Secretary-General on the above for expeditious action.

ten, authorises the OIC Contact Group in New York to approach the Member States of the United Nations to make generous contributions to the voluntary fund established by the UN Secretary-General to finance the UNPROFOR operations so as to enable the United Nations to deploy the maximum number of troops to fulfil the objectives of Security Council Resolutions in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

eleven, calls for the urgent reconvening of the London Conference on former Yugoslavia to consider proposals submitted by the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina for a political solution to the conflict based on the principles of the UN Charter and the London Conference. This Conference should be the sole forum for negotiations for a political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Simultaneously, to ensure the success of the negotiations a complete ceasefire should be instituted, as demanded by the UN Security Council. The proceedings of this Conference must be fully transparent. Participation in this Conference should include all the members of the Ministerial Mission established by the 21st Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers. In this context, the Islamic countries express their complete rejection of any plan which is imposed on the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina and

which erodes the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

twelve, propose to the UN Security Council to ensure that the UNPROFOR assumes supervision of all heavy weapons in Bosnia-Herzegovina outside the control of the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolution, and to authorize UNPROFOR to interdict arms supplies to Serbian-Croatian forces operating in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

thirteen, urge the Security Council once again to exempt the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina from the application of its Resolution 713 (1991) imposing an arms embargo against former Yugoslavia. The OIC countries will continue to seek the cooperation of these countries which have supported the lifting of the arms embargo;

fourteen, seek the cooperation of the Republic of Croatia in putting an end to the ongoing aggression by Croatian extremist elements against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as its assistance in efforts to restore the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina and to consider taking appropriate measures if the Republic of Croatia fails to do so;

fifteen, actively seek a halt to the expulsion of Bosnian refugees by Croatia;

sixteen, activate the War Crimes Tribunal set up by the UN to commence criminal proceedings against those who are known to be responsible for perpetrating War Crimes and crimes against humanity during the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina;

seventeen, seek the adoption of a comprehensive resolution in the UN General Assembly along the lines indicated in this Action Plan;

eighteen, continue to provide to the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina increased financial and material assistance to enable it to meet the grave challenges it is confronting;

nineteen, to request the Ministerial Mission, envisaged in its resolution on Bosnia-Herzegovina adopted at the 21st ICFM, to proceed immediately after this Meeting to the capitals of the Permanent Members of the Security Council as well as to New York, Geneva, Brussels, Bonn, Tokyo, Brasilia, Vatican, Budapest and Zagreb to promote implementation of the above-mentioned measures in this Action Plan,in particular:

(a) the lifting of the arms embargo against the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina;

(b) secure the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities and the adoption of Security Council Resolution for this purpose;

(c) the reconvening of the restructured London Conference as the forum for negotiations for political settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina as soon as possible.

twenty, the OIC Contact Group should function as the OIC Special Task Force pertaining to the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Islamabad, 23 Muharram, 1414H
(13 July 1993)